Menard-Salem-Lincoln

Souvenir Album

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MENARD SALEM LINCOLN

....SOUVENIR ALBUM

EDITED AND PUBLISHED BY

THE ILLINOIS WOMAN'S COLUMBIAN CLUB

OF MENARD COUNTY

PETERSBURGH, ILLINOIS

..1893..

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The Illinois Woman's Columbian Club
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ARRANGED WITH SPECIMENS FROM NEW SALEM

BY G. W. L. MEEKER, PETERSBURGH, ILL.

Pierre Menard

Oct. 7, 1766.—June 13, 1844.

PIERRE MENARD

AT a session of the legislature in 1838-39, Menard County was struck off from Sangamon County, and named in honor of "COLONEL MENARD," a Frenchman, who settled in Kaskaskia in 1790. MENARD was so popular in his day with the people of Illinois, that when the convention framed the constitution of the State, a clause was included in the schedule to the constitution, providing that "any citizen of the United States who had resided in the State two years, might be eligible to the office of lieutenant governor." This was done in order that COLONEL MENARD, who had been naturalized a year or two at the time, might be made lieutenant governor under SHADRACH BOND, first governor of Illinois after its formation into a state, in 1818.

MENARD, though possessing but a limited education, was a man of quick perception and almost unerring judgment. He was candid and honest, full of energy and industry, and these qualities soon marked him as a leader among the scattered population of his adopted home. He died in 1844, in Tazewell County, at the good old age of seventy-seven. Such was the man for whom the county was named.

MENARD COUNTY

THE entire area of Menard county within the limits of its given boundary is one hundred and ninety-eight thousand six bnndred and seventy-five acres. The Sangamon river flows through the county from south to north, dividing it into almost equal parts. Salt Creek on the northeast boundary flows into the Sangamon; a number of small streams flowing into these afford an abundance of pure, fresh water for every purpose. The greater portion of the county in its natural state is prairie. Beautiful groves of timber are interspersed over the entire county. Along either side of the Sangamon river are heavy bodies of timber comprising almost every kind that grows in Central Illinois.

The soil is adapted to agricultural pursuits to a remarkable degree. The county is well supplied with various kinds of live stock. "Little Menard" has as good a display of cattle and horses as any other in the State.

Inexhaustible deposits of bituminous coal of the best quality underlies the entire county, and at such a depth that it can be mined at a trifling cost. Along the banks of the Sangamon river are found deposits of fine sand in quantities. Stone is not so plentiful as might be desired, yet there are some quarries, especially one on Rock Creek, where a large field is underlaid with a fine strata of lime-stone: it is also found at New Salem and at Petersburg. There is no county in the State that possesses finer natural advantages for all purposes than "Little Menard."

The county is intersected by two railroads, viz: the Chicago & Alton, and the Jacksonville Southeastern, so the facilities for transportation of its products to market are ample.

It will be seen that the county contains within her borders everything that is calculated to make a great, prosperous, and wealthy people. Her educational facilities are equal, if not superior, to any other in the State. The status of Menard will compare favorably with any other in the State. Her churches are numerous and of almost all denominations; religious and charitable associations are to be found within her borders.

THE FIRST SETTLERS

JOHN CLARY, who came with his family and settled in a grove near Tallula, April, 1819, was the first settler in the county of Menard. This grove is known far and near as "Clary's Grove." The same year the ARMSTRONGS, GREENES, and SPEARS settled here also. The BOYERS, MEADOWS, and MCNABBS settled at "Sugar Grove." The same year (1819), the BLANES came to "Irish Grove." JESSE ARMSTRONG, WM. SAMPSON, and ROYAL POTTER settled on "Sandridge," in the fall of 1819.

Most of these pioneers built what is known as a "three-faced camp," that is they erected three walls, about six or seven feet high, of logs, leaving one entire side open. Poles were laid across a distance of three feet apart, and on these a roof of claphoards was laid and these were held down by weight poles. No floors were laid in these camps nor were there windows or chimneys. Just in front of the open sides were built large log heaps, which gave warmth and light and were used for cooking purposes all the year around. It was about the year 1825 that we have the first account of glass windows, HARRY RIOGIN bringing the first glass from St. Louis. All cabins were built with a log left out on one side with oiled paper tacked over the opening to admit the light.

At this early day cotton and cloth of all kinds were hard to get; so after the first year or two they began to sew hemp and flax. The women spun and wove this into cloth, but they had to resort to nature for assistance. Vast fields of wild nettles grew here, and this produces a most excellent lint. The year after JAMES MEADOWS settled, his wife spun and wove thirty yards of this nettlecloth.

During the year 1822, the first school house was built in Sugar Grove by BOYER, MEADOWS, and MCNABB. It was constructed of split logs, sixteen feet square, covered with hewn boards held in place by weight poles. The floor was made of puncheons, the seats a half of a log ten or twelve feet long, with four pins set in for legs. The window was a log left out along one side. The books used were a New Testament for a reader and Smiley's arithmetic. JAMES MCNABB taught this school. A school was taught about the same time by ROBERT ARMSTRONG in Clary's Grove.

The first church in the county was Clary's Grove Baptist church, organized on Christmas day, 1824. The first church built was a Methodist church, on the farm of HARRY RIGGIN, in 1825. It was a neat, hewn-log building, twenty-two by thirty-six feet, with glass windows. Rev. JOHN BERRY, the great apostle of Cumberland Presbyterianism in Menard county, was the first minister, and he labored for his congregation for years. May 20, 1832, Rev. J. G. BERGEN organized the North Sangamon church of Indian Point.

The first mill of which he have any record, was a horse mill, built

by DAVID ONSTOTT as early as 1820, near the mouth of Salt Creek. The oldest cemetery was at Sugar Grove. The first representative to the General Assembly from the new county of Menard, was JOHN BENNETT. The first brick houses in the county were built by GEO. SPEARS and ROBERT CONOVER, in 1828, and they stand to-day in a state of good preservation.

From 1893 we look back to 1819, a period of almost a century, and are struck by the great changes wrought in this flourishing region. In 1819 the first Anglo-Saxon pitched his tent in a grove of timber in this portion of the county when naught met his eye but one vast, gloomy wilderness, infested by wild beasts and savages. Others flocked to the grove with determined courage and zeal to contest their rights, and succeeded in gaining a foothold that has developed into the state of civilization we find around us today. These people knew nothing of railroads, steam threshers, or sulky plows; these inventions never entered into their wildest dreams. The old Cary, or sod plow, drawn by two or three yoke of oxen, was their mode of breaking the sod for cultivation. Their nearest postoffice was Springfield, and a letter from their old homes cost twenty-five cents and sometimes lay in the office for months before the requisite quarter could be obtained, as "Uncle Sam" required his little fees in advance.

Many were the hardships and trials the early settlers underwent, —prairie fires, wolves, the deep snows, the sudden changes, and a hundred trials met them of which the present generation knows nothing.

PETERSBURGH

PETERSBURGH, the metropolis of Menard county, is beautifully situated on the left bank of the Sangamon river. PETER LUKINS and GEORGE WARBURTON were the original owners of a hundred and sixty acres of land on which Petersburg now stands. They laid out the town about the year 1832, and quietly sat down and waited for the place to grow, but finally becoming discouraged they sold out to HEZEKIAH KING and JOHN TAYLOR. These gentlemen employed ABRAHAM LINCOLN, then deputy surveyor of Sangamon county, to re-survey and plat it, which was admitted to record February 22, 1836. The town was named for PETER LUKIN, the original owner of the land. The accident which led to the name of Petersburg instead of Georgetown occurred in this way: both wishing to be immortalized in history, became involved in a dispute as to whether it should be called Petersburgh or Georgetown. They finally agreed to play a game of "old sledge" or seven up, then the popular game. LUKINS won the game and, rising from the nail keg on which he sat, called out "Petersburgh."

The first shanty on the present sight of Petersburgh was erected by ELIJAH ESTEP in 1826. He also owned a gear mill run by horse power used for sawing. The first families to locate were those of LUKINS and DAVIDSON. The first grist mill on the town site was built by DORRELL on the ground where the Charter Oak mills now stand. The first store was opened in 1833 by JOHN TAYLOR. TAYLOR afterwards sold this store to JOHN BENNETT. A postoffice was established in the same year with JAMES TAYLOR as postmaster.

The first lawyer was DAVID M. RUTLEDGE, brother to Miss ANNA RUTLEDGE, the fiance of ABRAHAM LINCOLN. In 1839, NATHAN DRESSER was the first circuit and county clerk; A. D. WRIGHT, probate judge; JACOB LANING, treasurer; and JAMES GOLDSBY, sheriff.

The first located physician was Dr. R. E. BENNETT. The first tavern was kept by PETER LUKINS, afterwards by Dr. R. E. BENNETT, who built a more commodious one, and the old sign that swung in the wind with "Inn" upon its face welcomed many a weary traveler to its hospitable board. The ruins still remain as a landmark of days gone by.

HARDEN BALE erected a carding machine at New Salem in 1836. He moved it to Petersburg in 1840. This mill was run by horse power but was replaced by an engine in 1852. The enterprising owner enlarged his establishment, and introduced a spinning jack of a hundred and sixty-eight spindles in four looms, and manufactured as fine cloth and blankets as any found in the market. In 1865 the entire factory was destroyed by fire. Nothing daunted HARDEN BALE; being the owner of a large brick pork-packing establishment, he at once placed

all necessary machinery in it and was soon running two hundred and forty spindles, cards, fulling mill and five looms. The fire destroyer soon laid this in ashes. Again the energetic man rebuilt and had another fine mill in operation, but that, too, met the same fate. In 1878, HARDEN BALE, in company with his son, turned his attention to the manufacture of drain tile, an industry that is carried on quite extensively to the present day.

The first newspaper was established in the fall of 1854, named the "*Petersburgh Express.*" The first bank was established by BRAHM and GREENE in 1866.

There are four cemeteries,—first, the old burying-ground donated to Petersburgh by JOHN TAYLOR, Rose Hill, Oakland, and Calvary (Catholic) cemeteries.

Petersburgh of today is a beautiful city of three thousand inhabitants, noted for its picturesque scenery of river and hills. The Sangamon river on the east winds its way from south to north, having located on its banks two flouring mills, an elevator, bed-spring factory, tile factory, and water works. The city is well lighted by electric lights of the latest improved systems. The main or business part of the city is in the valley. The public square is a well shaded spot, set with grass, in the center of which stands the old, moss-covered Menard County court house, erected in 1843. Within its venerable walls the eloquence of DOUGLAS, LINCOLN, YATES, HARRIS, BAKER, HERNDON, and FERGUSON have often thrilled the hearers and made the welkin ring with thunders of applause. Her citizens are justly proud of her stores, banks, and general business prosperity. Her hills are covered with many handsome residences, and her schools compare favorably with any of her sister cities.

Petersburgh has two railroads, the Chicago & Alton and the Jacksonville Southeastern.

City of Petersburgh

Sangamon River

EAST OF THE CITY OF PETERSBURGH

Eastep House

FIRST HOUSE BUILT IN PETERSBURGH

Court House of Menard County

Edmund's Springs

PETERSBURGH

The Discovery of Coal

ELIJAH TAYLOR, familiarly known as "Uncle Lije," was among the first to arrive in Petersburgh. He bore the good will of all who knew him; he was scientific and well read, always studying nature, and in his rambles up and down the river was often heard to remark that "there was a wealth of coal underlying Menard county." In 1865 he began sinking the first coal shaft in the south part of Petersburgh. Many of his friends thought it would be time and money wasted, and tried to dissuade him but could not. At the depth of sixty-five feet, he struck a vein of coal three feet thick. He never lived to realize the value of his discovery. The State geologist says: "The strata of coal in this part of Illinois will make twenty-five feet in thickness." For safety we will estimate it at six feet, which will give up one hundred and twenty million bushels to each square mile, an inexhaustible source of wealth. Menard has twelve coal shafts in operation today.

William Sprouse

IN the pioneer days of Menard county the first settlers were, with few exceptions, of limited means, and when they opened up their farms they underwent many hardships. Farming implements were scarce; even the "wooden mold board," or Cary plow, was considered a luxury. Many farmers relate how they planted their first two acres of corn by digging up the soil with a common mattock. The great trouble was to get an implement that would scour and turn Illinois black alluvial soil. In 1843, WILLIAM SPROUSE came to Petersburgh. He was a blacksmith by trade, and it was this man that invented the first diamond iron mold board plow that proved to turn the virgin sod better than anything ever invented. Many improvements have been added, but the plow of today still holds the SPROUSE invention.

Aboriginal Inhabitants

ON the highest bluffs along the Sangamon river are seen at the present time, remains of the work of the strange people called Mound Builders. Many relics have been picked up and some of the mounds have been opened, but nothing of value was found. There is one circle of mounds near the mouth of Salt Creek, located on one of the highest bluffs, that shows of a long used camp, as the mussel shells thrown over the edge of the steep bank of the river are several feet deep mixed with earth and broken pottery, and bones of many kinds of wild animals. Further down the river are many graves in which specimens of pottery are found.

When the first settlements were made in the limits of this county, the Kickapoo Indians had a village at Indian Point, and the Pottawatomies on the bluffs along the Sangamon river, north of Petersburgh They all left with the exception of Shambolee and Shick-Shack with a few of their relatives. Shick-Shack was a very old Indian and wandered up and down the river, clinging to this old hunting ground, wishing to die on the old camp ground, where he was attached to every lake and grove that furnished meat and sustenance for his family. It is related that the old man was on his knees scraping a deer skin when a white man, seeing him, wilfully shot him. Wishing to hide his crime, he cut a hole in the ice of the lake near him, and gave him a watery grave. The lake to this day is called "Indian Lake."

Collected by E. S. Hamilton, of Petersburgh

Model of first Plow
Made in Menard Co
Menard House

Along the Sangamon

THOMAS L. HARRIS

SECOND only to ABRAHAM LINCOLN, the most conspicuous man in the history of Menard county was THOMAS LANGRELL HARRIS. He was born in Norwich, Connecticut, October 29, 1816. His early life was spent in a struggle to obtain an education. He attended the day school in his native town, and when he had acquired sufficient education, he taught school in order to procure funds to take him through college. After many struggles he was graduated from Washington College, at Hartford, in his native state. He left his Connecticut home in 1841 for Virginia, where he stayed long enough to receive his license to practice law. He then turned westward, traveling part of the way on foot. He arrived at Springfield, Illinois, in June of 1842, with only three dollars in his pocket. His Virginia license is dated March 8, 1842, and his Illinois license September 5, 1842.

He made the acquaintance of the late SAMUEL H. TREAT, STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS, WM. WATERS, and other leading men of Springfield; these men advised him to go to some small town and "grow up with the country." Some time in December of that year, Mr. HARRIS took their advice and footed it to the little village of Petersburgh, and immediately determined to make it his future home. HARRIS brought with him from the East an indomitable will and talents that rendered him a conspicuous character wherever he was thrown among men. He had met in Springfield during his brief stay, two men who quickly discovered the latent talents of the young man, and they encouraged him to push himself forward in this growing State of Illinois. These two men (TREAT and DOUGLAS) were judges at the time and their names are attached to the Illinois license to practice law, which HARRIS held. They were fast friends of the young attorney, and so remained during his life. In Petersburgh, for a while, he had a hard struggle to live. It is said that one of the accomplishments which he had acquired in his Connecticut home was the handy use of the scythe and, clients being scarce, he hired to a Mr. TAYLOR to mow a meadow that adjoined the town. The twenty odd acres he converted into hay for the sum of five dollars. He did considerable work of this kind and gained a reputation among the farmers for his skill.

Mr. HARRIS soon developed a talent for public speaking and as he was an uncompromising democrat, he met many of the whig champions on the stump. HARRIS was a ready debater and a close student of passing events. Perhaps no man in Illinois had a better use of language than he, and his gift of sarcasm was "as keen as a Damascus blade." After his admission to the bar he climbed rapidly to the position occupied by the first attorneys of the State. As an advocate and pleader he showed himself a peer of any man at the bar.

Scarcely had he attained a secure footing in his profession when he was called to other fields. The misunderstanding between Mexico and the United States made it necessary to resort to arms to settle the differences between the two governments. At the first call to arms, HARRIS laid aside his law books and put on the uniform of the soldier. He started to the scene of war as captain of a company recruited from his friends and neighbors in Menard. In the "tented field" he demonstrated that he was a leader of men and that his breast knew no fear. As acting colonel of his regiment at the battle of Cerro Gordo, "For bravery on the field of battle," he gained the applause of the nation and was afterwards presented by the State of Illinois with a magnificent sword, which is treasured by his family as a precious heirloom. HARRIS returned from the arid fields of Mexico broken in health and prepared to resume the practice of law. In his absence he was elected to the senate. In this capacity he did not serve.

In December of 1847 he was married to MARY I. DIRICKSON, of Maryland, and brought his bride to Petersburgh, where they were welcomed by the entire populace. In 1846 HARRIS first entered upon a political career that made him famous alike at home and in the nation. In 1848 he was nominated by his party to a seat in the Thirty-Fourth Congress of the United States. His opponent was STEPHEN T. LOGAN, whom he defeated. In 1850 he was again nominated but was defeated by RICHARD YATES. In 1852, very unjustly, JOHN CALHOUN was made the democratic nominee, yet YATES beat him in the election. In 1854, HARRIS was again put up and was again elected, defeating RICHARD YATES. In 1856 he defeated Colonel JOHN WILLIAMS, of Springfield. In 1858 he defeated Colonel J. H. MATHENEY, of Springfield, the latter election occurring only a few days before his death, November 24, 1858.

MAJOR HARRIS, as he was familiarly called by his friends in Illinois, was one of the most conspicuous characters in the Congress of the United States during the tumultous decade preceding the Civil War, and his voice was often raised in defense of democratic principles enunciated by the leader of his party, STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS. He was preeminently the leader on the democratic side of the House, and had few equals and no superiors in the debates of that body. As an evidence of the regard in which he was held by his constituents he was re-elected but a few days before his death, although his health was so precarious he was unable to leave his bed during the entire canvass.

In the death of MAJOR HARRIS, Illinois sustained the loss of one of her most brilliant men, who, had he lived, would have made his mark in a higher sphere. He was eloquent, loyal, of strong conviction, bold, earnest in the advocacy of what he deemed right, of rigid personal integrity, and sound morals. He was that "noblest work of God, an honest man." Menard has ever loved to honor the name of THOMAS L. HARRIS, who by sheer energy and ability climbed from poverty and obscurity to the first position within her borders. He lies buried in a private cemetery near the family residence. His deeds are cherished by the surviving friends of his day, and his reputation a priceless heritage left to his family is a spotless name among men.

Costumes and Relics of New Salem

The Legend of Indian Lake

MAGGIE S. MILLER CHEANEY

I.

UNDER the glow of the warm, Western sky
Lies beautiful, tale-haunted Indian Lake:
Chafing the shore with a soft, restless sigh,
As though it were weary of wondering why
The dead Past would never awake.

II.

Blue hills in the distance, broad fields round about,—
'Tis the heart of the garden of fair Illinois;
Once the home of the great Pottawatomie tribe
When care was a jest and existence a joy.

III.

Fleet-footed and fearless was each dusky brave
That roamed th' wide prairies with tireless bow,
But the fleetest of foot, the most fearless and fair,
Was Shickshack, the Pride of th' Sangamo.

IV.

Not only his beauty and grave Indian grace,
And his skill,—all fulfilling th' promise of youth,—
Won his fame as a chieftain th' whole valley thro',
But *all* manhood's best weapon,—th' spirit of truth.

V.

The pioneers knew him,—his word was a law
From the lake to the mouth of the swift Sangamo:
His people's protector,—the pioneer's friend,—
Stanch and true as the arrows that sped from his bow.

VI.

And when, in the councils near fair Indian Lake,
The paleface invasion roused anger and fear,
His voice was for mercy; so well did he earn
The undying remembrance of each pioneer.

VII.

But ah, let us leave, as a story untold,
The years that are marked by the saddened retreat
Of the children of Nature; till ploughshare and spade
Furrows deep ev'ry trace of the moccasined feet.

VIII.

The valley soon changed,—for the log cabins rose
Where the Indians' picturesque wigwams had stood;
The pioneer hoarded the gold of the grain,
And his axe sounded early and late thro' the wood.

IX.

The farm land that stretched to the brink of the lake,
Where many a bright council fire had burned,
Was called the Day farm; and as fertile indeed
As ever the edge of a plow overturned.

X.

And thus runs the legend: Sad, sad is the morn,—
The cold, winter morning,—when good Richard Day
Strides forth from his cabin with musket in hand,
In search of the game that is man's lawful prey.

XI.

The settlement sleeps 'neath a blanket of white;
All the landscape looks desolate, dreary and cold,
Save the bare, wind-blown lake where the glittering ice
Is like sunshine congealed in some great, earthen mold.

XII.

On the shore of the lake, doth a wanderer stand:—
An Indian, in costume and stature and mien;
Tall, sad-eyed and silent, 'twould seem that his heart
Was girt with the chill of the desolate scene.

XIII.

There, lost in his dreams of the days that were gone,
'Ere his tribe had been banished by avarice and hate,
He wists not the weapon full aimed at his breast
'Till he feels in his heart the cold iron of Fate.

XIV.

But the very first glimpse of the still, upturned face
Fills the soul of the settler with terror and woe:
Lo! no "*vagabond* redskin" lies dead at his feet
But Shickshack, the Pride of the Sangamo.

XV.

'Tis a crime, not the law of the nation alone
But the hearts of the settlers, will quickly chastise
Should he fail to conceal it; so desperate indeed
Is his plight, and no hope but the lake he espies.

XVI.

With guilt on his hands, (tho' regret in his heart,)
He lifts the still form from the snow-covered shore,
Breaks the glistening ice that imprisons the lake,—
And the chieftain is lost to the world evermore.

XVII.

Strange, but true, tho' no mortal had witnessed the deed,—
The death, and the burial in fair Indian Lake,—
Fortune frowned evermore on good Richard Day,
And prosperity seemed to itself wings to take.

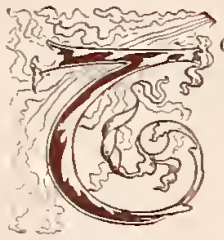
XVIII.

Still the farm bears his name as in days long ago,
And the log cabin stands where he built his first home;
But its master, like Shickshack,—so strange is the truth,—
Was forced from the valley forever to roam.

XIX.

This, then, is the legend of Indian Lake;
Where the sweetest birds sing and the sofest winds blow
Where, lulled by the waters he loved so well,
And awaiting the trump that all things shall foretell,
Sleeps Shickshack, the Pride of the Sangamo.

NEW SALEM



ODAY there is scarcely a vestige left of this once flourishing little village—the first laid out in the county of Menard, and, before the birth of Petersburgh, the principal trading point in the county. In 1828 CAMERON and RUTLEDGE built a mill on the Sangamon River and planted a cabin on the bluff; in a short time others came with their families and, after some two or three log cabins had been erected, decided to lay out a town. CAMERON was given the privilege of naming the future city, and called it New Salem, after his native town in Massachusetts. This town was surveyed by REUBEN HARRISON, and, although there was no boom, Salem for a time prospered. SAMUEL HILL and JOHN MCNAMAR built a house and opened the first store in the new town. A postoffice was established at Salem and JOHN MCNAMAR installed as postmaster, to be succeeded by ABRAHAM LINCOLN, who held the office until his removal to Springfield.

DR. JOHN ALLEN was the first practicing physician, and it was through his influence that the first Sunday school and temperance society were formed in the county. The first tavern was opened by one JOHN KELSO.

Salem at this time (1831) was the central point where the wild spirits of the day gathered to get their corn ground at the mill, and to exchange what produce they had for sugar, coffee, calico, and such other necessities and comforts as their primitive homes required. Here on Saturdays they would meet, run horses, engage in feats of strength, and try their skill with the rifle, with which weapon many were experts.

ROWAN and JAMES HERNDON had opened a store in Salem, and becoming tired sold out to LINCOLN & BERRY in the fall of 1832. LINCOLN & BERRY had been established in business but a short time when REUBEN RADFORD, proprietor of another Salem grocery, who had incurred the displeasures of the Clary's Grove boys, decided suddenly to retire from business. RADFORD, fearing the boys might visit his store at night, break in his windows, and take possession of his stock, and fearing his bones might share the fate of his windows, disposed of his stock and good will to W. G. GREENE for the consideration of four hundred dollars. GREENE employed LINCOLN to make an inventory of the goods. This young merchant offered GREENE an advance of two hundred and fifty dollars on his investment. GREENE accepted, so the stock passed into the control of the enterprising firm of LINCOLN & BERRY. By the spring of 1833 they, like their predecessors, were ready to retire, and sold out to brothers named TRENT, who soon failed and fled, and the death of BERRY left LINCOLN to meet all obligations of the ill-fated partnership. LINCOLN was a long time in meeting their claims, even as late as 1848 he sent a portion of his salary as Congressman to be applied on the unpaid remnant of the LINCOLN & BERRY indebtedness.

With the laying out of Petersburgh, the glory of Salem began to wane, and the location of the county seat at that place sealed its doom. Today there is scarcely a trace of Salem and its famous mill left. Some of its houses were moved to Petersburgh, while others were left to moulder away, and their cellars left to fill with debris. In the summer, grass and wild flowers do their best to hide the desolation from the eyes of the pilgrim. This locality will in time become almost as historic as Mount Vernon. Salem is as sacred to the lover of human liberty as Mount Vernon in all its historic glory. Many a citizen seeks the spot where ABRAHAM LINCOLN spent the days of his early manhood, where he studied law, wrestled, romped, and sported with the young men of his age, and where those principles were imbibed which in after years made him the idol of a great mass of the American people, and wrote his name in tablets more enduring than granite. Here it may be said he made his start in this life, and the spot is endeared to the people of this country as the early home of the martyred president. This is the true cradle of the famous Illinoisan.

FROM THE PAINTING BY MRS. BENNETT.

The Old Mill at New Salem

IMMORTELLE

Below the town the river flows,
And on its breast forever,
The stars by night, the sun by day,
Their mystic forms discover.

And on its brink the rustic mill
Creaked on from hour to hour,
While stony hands changed golden grain
To snowy flakes of flour.

Above the mill pond, giant trees
Their lofty heads were swinging;
Among the leaves the unseen birds
Their happy songs were singing.

A youth who mused upon the scene,
Just entering life's great portal,
Dreamed not that in the coming years
His name would grow immortal.

Till mill and wood, and winding stream
Reflect alike the glory,
The gathered splendor of his name,
And live in art and story.

Lift up thy heads, O stately trees!
Flow on, O shining river!
Thy fame shall last with Lincoln's name
In Freedom's breast forever.

Above the Dam at New Salem

The Oak and the Elm at New Salem

THAT HAVE GROWN UP OUT OF THE CELLAR WHERE LINCOLN'S STORE STOOD.

These beautiful trees so grand and majestic,
Like the North and the South they stand face to face,
Tho' the storm's winds force them away from each other
In peace, they are locked in a friendly embrace.

On the oak a fond hand has carved Lincoln's features,
His face turned toward the sweet, sunny South,
And I almost fancy I heard the words of forgiveness
As I silently gazed on that firm, kind mouth.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

THE pen of the historian has never correctly recorded the most interesting chapter in the life of LINCOLN—the story of his struggles in the now historic village of New Salem, when he met the people who had more influence on his future life than any of the friends of his later days. It reads more like romance than reality. LINCOLN entered this little hamlet in pioneer Illinois, a youth possessed of little save a fine constitution and physique that marked him as one of the types of rough back-woodsmen, found scattered through the wilderness of virgin forests and wide prairies of those days. One day, in the year of 1831, there strode into the store of HILL & MCNAMAR a tall, lank, powerful, stoop-shouldered young man who asked for a drink of water. It was LINCOLN. He had come to Salem to meet DENTON OFFETT, for whom he had made one trip down the river to New Orleans with a flat boat, loaded with salted pork and a number of live hogs. OFFETT purchased a stock of goods and brought it up the river to Beardstown, then removed it to Salem by wagon, and opened it in the building which OFFETT had rented for a store, and LINCOLN was duly installed as clerk. Mr. OFFETT'S business soon increased to such an extent that he had to engage another clerk, so he employed W. G. GREENE for this position, and it was here that LINCOLN and GREENE formed a friendship that lasted for life.

In the fall of 1831, LINCOLN was installed as postmaster. In this capacity he met the Clary's Grove boys, who lived southwest of Salem.

They were a rough, kind-hearted lot of settlers, always ready for a wrestle, foot race, or fight; and a new comer had to stand his ground with his fists or he kicked and cuffed by these "sooners," and LINCOLN, after a physical demonstration that he was the superior of their picked champion, was taken in by them and ever after was considered their fast friend.

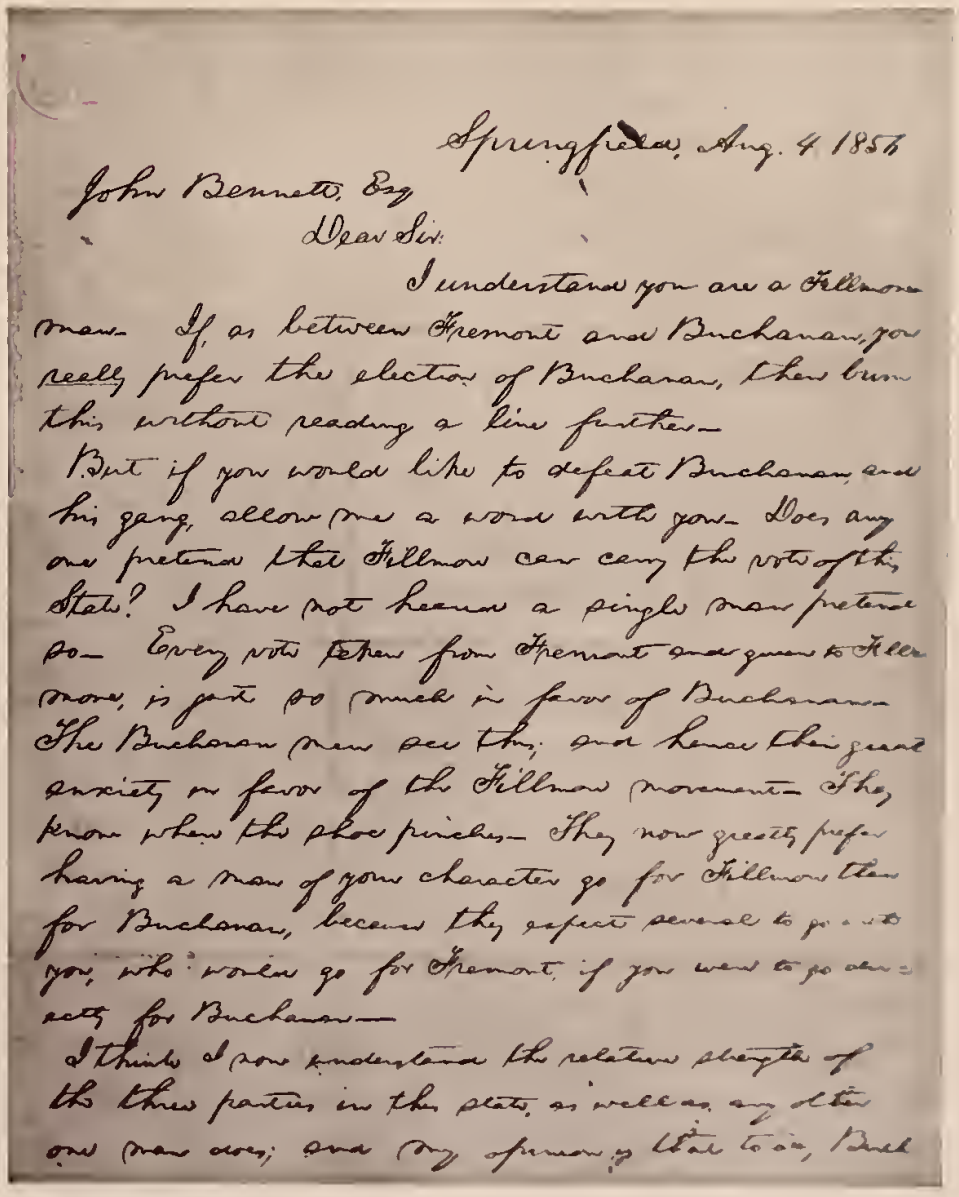
In 1832, LINCOLN entered as private in the Black Hawk war and remained until the total defeat of Black Hawk. He then returned to Salem, and right here we want to put a matter correctly before our readers. MENTOR GRAHAM had come to Salem previous to LINCOLN, and opened a school where he taught a few of the children of the town and surrounding country. GRAHAM was a very learned man for his day, a typical pedagogue of the border. During the long wait for OFFETT'S goods to arrive, there sprang up between the two a lasting friendship. GRAHAM was an enthusiast in his calling and took a great interest in anyone who showed a disposition to gather knowledge. He found LINCOLN an apt scholar and strove in every way to instill in him his own ideas of education. LINCOLN became much interested in arithmetic, and to the great delight of his teacher he was soon able to recite the tables and to "do sums" in vulgar fractions as well as the most advanced scholar of his school. The school was located on the farm of THOMAS WATKINS near the town, and Mr. WATKINS, (son of the owner of the land,) a scholar of the school days, says that on Friday afternoons LINCOLN used to come in to attend the spelling match which always wound up the week's exercises of the country school. Among GRAHAM'S scholars, and the brightest student, was ANN RUTLEDGE. Mr. GRAHAM had directed her to procure a grammar. Her father sent to St. Louis and in four weeks time the coveted book arrived and she plunged into the intricacies of nouns, verbs, etc. After LINCOLN had thoroughly mastered the arithmetic, while lounging on the counter of OFFETT'S store or reclining in the shade of a tree at the door, GRAHAM insisted that he should take up the grammar. He had no book and at the suggestion of his teacher he borrowed Miss RUTLEDGE'S after school hours. As in other pursuits of learning, LINCOLN progressed rapidly and soon advanced as far as Miss RUTLEDGE. It was then agreed that they should study together of evenings. It was here that LINCOLN fell in love with the attractive ANN RUTLEDGE, and that the young clerk was captivated was not surprising. Many were their strolls along the margin of the river and over the ragged bluffs in the vicinity of Salem.

In 1835 disease laid its cruel hand on this young maiden. Early in her illness LINCOLN called and she sang a hymn for which he always expressed a great preference. It began "Vain man thy fond pursuits forbear." Day by day she sank until hope was banished. During the later days of her illness (her brother relates) she kept inquiring for LINCOLN so continually, at times demanding to see him, that the family at last sent for him. On his arrival at her bedside the door was closed and he was left alone with her. What was said, what vows were made during this sad interview were known only to him and the dying girl. In spite of the love of friends and the skill of physicians Death claimed her as his own. She was buried four miles north of Petersburgh in Concord graveyard. It is said that LINCOLN was plunged in despair. He wandered up and down the river and into the woods in deepest distress. Whenever LINCOLN had the opportunity he would wander alone to the hillock raised above her grave and sit and ponder in sadness.

Near New Salem, a little northwest from the town, nestled in the hills, stood a log cabin. It was of the primitive construction of the

Fac-Simile of Political Letter and Postoffice Receipt

WRITTEN BY ABRAHAM LINCOLN TO JOHN BENNETT AND GEORGE SPEARS, OF MENARD COUNTY, ILLINOIS



Springfield, Aug. 4 1856

John Bennett, Esq

Dear Sir.

I understand you are a Fillmore man. If, as between Fremont and Buchanan, you really prefer the election of Buchanan, then burn this without reading a line further.

But if you would like to defeat Buchanan and his gang, allow me a word with you. Does any one pretend that Fillmore can carry the vote of this State? I have not heard a single man pretend so. Every vote taken from Fremont and given to Fillmore now, is just so much in favor of Buchanan. The Buchanan men see this, and hence their great anxiety in favor of the Fillmore movement. They know when the shoe pinches. They now greatly prefer having a man of your character go for Fillmore than for Buchanan, because they expect several to go with you, who would go for Fremont, if you were to go directly for Buchanan.

I think I now understand the relative strength of the three parties in the state, as well as any other one man does; and my opinion is that to-day, Buch

anew has about 85.000— Fremont 78.000, and Fillmore 21.000! This gives B. the State by 7000. and leaves him in the minority of the whole 14.000— Fremont and Fillmore (now being united as Bissell as they already are, he can not be beaten— This is not a long letter, but it contains the whole story—

Yours as ever
A. Lincoln.

Mr. Spears

At your request I send you a receipt for the postage on your paper— I am some what surprised at your request— I will however comply with it— The law requires News paper postage to be paid in advance and now that I have waited a full year you choose to wound my feelings by even intimating that unless you get a receipt I will probably make you pay it again—

Respectfully
A Lincoln

Received of George Spears in full for postage on the Sangamo Journal up to the first of July 1834

A. Lincoln P.M.

pioneer and varied little from the other cabins except that it contained two rooms and a loft.

Here BOWLIN GREEN lived, a great big Kentuckian, broad of shoulder, wide of girth, and LINCOLN was brought to Mr. GREEN'S after the death of ANN RUTLEDGE and he being a whole-souled, jovial sort of a fellow did much to direct LINCOLN and bring him back to his true condition.

When LINCOLN first essayed the law he was very anxious to try his hand as attorney, and although he had not received the coveted license to practice in the circuit court, he was qualified to appear before a justice. BOWLIN GREEN took the world easy and cared little as to what transpired so that a side of bacon hung in the smokehouse, and the meal barrel was full. He was a great hand to spin yarns and he and LINCOLN became fast friends. His house was ever full of visitors, for BOWLIN GREEN would never allow a caller to leave until he had crossed his feet under the table. At the first election for Justice of the Peace, GREEN was elected and duly qualified. Thereupon he put on his spectacles and as much dignity as he could muster and prepared for business. It happened that shortly after his elevation to office, two of GREEN'S neighbors, JOHN KELSO and JOHN FERGUSON got into a dispute as to the ownership of a hog and decided to try the rights of property before Esquire GREEN. JOHN FERGUSON employed LINCOLN as his attorney who was sure he could gain his suit before his friend GREEN. They waived a jury and tried the case before the court. In the esquire's cabin a court room was improvised and after swearing the witnesses who *all* testified in favor of FERGUSON, Mr. LINCOLN delivered a strong address to "his honor the court," dwelling on the preponderance of the evidence, for KELSO had no witness to sustain his own straightforward story. Certain of a verdict in favor of his client, LINCOLN sat down. BOWLIN GREEN pushed up his glasses and turning to KELSO said "JOHN, you can take your hog." After the little knot of witnesses and loungers had gone LINCOLN asked GREEN how he could render such a decision in the face of such strong testimony? "Because," said GREEN, "I know that hog belongs to KELSO, and that I am not only an esquire but a *Justice* of the Peace, and could not decide for your client when I knew that he and his witnesses swore lies. This was LINCOLN'S first lawsuit. In 1842 GREEN died and LINCOLN was called on to deliver the funeral oration by the Masonic lodge. After many attempts his voice broke down with emotion, he could not form words of fervent praise he sought to utter and found it impossible to speak. He finally strode away sobbing bitterly.

Notwithstanding his tall and ungainly form and readiness of humor there was hid in his breast a heart as tender and full of sympathy as a woman's—a heart touched by every tale of sorrow and full to overflowing with milk of human kindness.

LINCOLN allowed none of his leisure time to pass unimproved and in addition to his duties in business at Salem acquired a knowledge of surveying and as deputy surveyor of Sangamon county he surveyed a portion of Menard county. Among his last operations in this profession he laid out Petersburgh, the county seat of Menard.

He borrowed law books of his friend JOHN T. STEWART of Springfield, his former comrade in the Black Hawk war, frequently walking there to return one and borrow another, and in his walks would read and recite from the book he carried open in his hand.

LINCOLN owed more to MENTOR GRAHAM than to any one else for his advancement. Gifted with language, the lessons he learned under the tutelage of GRAHAM made it possible for him to climb to

the highest position accorded to man. He had learned much of the world and men, and had gained some true knowledge of himself. The discipline of those hard years of toil and penury, so cheerfully and so manfully borne, was of more value to him, as time was to prove, than any heritage of wealth or ancestral eminence.

In 1834, LINCOLN was elected to legislature from this section of what was then Sangamon county, running upwards of two hundred votes ahead of his ticket. About the year 1837 or 1838 he removed to Springfield, and then entered upon the practice of law and, as the world has since learned, rose rapidly to eminence.

1. W. H Herndon.
2. S. A. Douglas.
3. Jno. T. Stewart.
4. Richard Yates.
5. Jas. H. Matheney.
6. W. I. Ferguson
7. Stephen T. Logan
8. Samuel Treat

Abraham Lincoln and Legal Associates

WHO HAVE PLEAD IN THE MENARD COUNTY COURT HOUSE

Menard County Citizens of Lincoln's Time

1 Hardin Bale
2 Elijah Taylor.
3 Mentor Graham
4. Geo Spears
5. Harry Riggan
6. Samuel Hill
7 Wm G. [illegible]

1. Relics of Ann Rutledge.
2. Lincoln's Store at Salem.
3. Lincoln's Boarding House at Salem.

View of Ann Rutledge's Grave

At Oakland Cemetery, near Petersburgh, Illinois

1. Major Thos. L. Harris.
2. Corporal C. Rourke
3. Captain A. D. Wright.

Portraits of Officers of the Menard County Mexican Volunteers

SHOWING MAJOR HARRIS'S SWORD, NOW IN POSSESSION OF HIS WIFE, AT PETERSBURGH, AND THE SILK FLAG OF THE COMPANY, NOW IN THE KEEPING OF MRS. A. D. WRIGHT

1. Amos Guernsey.
2. Wm. Stone
3. A. D. Houghton,
4. Geo. W. Nance.
5. Thos. Watkins.
6. Geo. W. Denton

Survivors of the Menard County Mexican Volunteers

Mexican War

IN 1846, war was declared with Mexico. On May 25th, a call from President James K. Polk for volunteers was promptly responded to by the sons of "Little Menard." Hon. T. L. Harris as major, A. D. Wright, captain; Wm. C. Clary, first lieutenant; Shelton Johnston, second lieutenant; and Robert Scott, third lieutenant. The whole number mustered in was eighty-three. This was Company F, Fourth Regiment of Illinois Volunteers. They returned in the fall of 1847, with only thirty-nine men. The following are the survivors at the present time: Wm. Stone, Thomas Watkins, Amos Gurnsey, Washington Denton, George Nance and Aaron Houghton.

Civil War

WHEN President Lincoln issued his first call for troops on the 15th of April, 1861, the sons of Menard answered that call promptly. On the 25th of April, Company E, Fourteenth Regiment, was mustered into service. Company E contained eighty men, and was officered as follows: A. K. Johnston, captain; J. M. Early, first lieutenant; E. A. Norton, second lieutenant; A. J. Gillespie, third lieutenant. At every subsequent call a like promptness was shown, until Menard County furnished to the service one thousand and eighty-four men. Of this number, one hundred and eighty-four laid down their lives for the preservation of the Union. Menard stood faithfully by the Union, and freely gave her sons to the cause. No stain has marred her escutcheon, and her people are proud of the record made upon the battlefields by her sons.

DR. B. F. STEPHENSON

FOUNDER OF THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC

Benjamin Franklin Stephenson was born October 3, 1823, in Wayne County, Illinois. During his early childhood his father removed to Sangamon County, where the subject of our sketch grew to young manhood. His environment was that of other early Illinois settlers. His parents were poor, and his educational advantages limited. His mind, however, eagerly absorbed and assimilated the mental aliment with which it was brought in contact, whether in the primitive log schoolhouse, or in his father's small but well-thumbed library.

On reaching early manhood he decided to become a physician, studied medicine with his brother, Dr. WM. STEPHENSON, and Dr. CLARKE, at Mount Pleasant, Iowa, and attended medical lectures, first at Columbus, Ohio, afterward at Rush Medical College, Chicago. From the latter institution he received his diploma, dated February 7, 1850.

Dr. STEPHENSON'S father had removed from Sangamon to Menard County in the fall of 1844, and hither he came on graduation, locating at Petersburg. Here he soon acquired a large practice. His first partner was Dr. CABANIS, an able physician and an excellent man. In this pleasant little town Dr. STEPHENSON passed several years. He was known to his fellow townsmen as a young man of very social disposition and cordial manner, always at the disposal of his friends, yet vitally interested in his profession, and never allowing social pleasures to interfere with the closest attention to professional duties.

On the 30th of March, 1855, the young physician was married to Miss BARBARA B. MOORE, of Springfield, Ill., a native of Kentucky.

At the urgent solicitation of the trustees and faculty of the prospective Iowa Medical College, Dr. STEPHENSON accepted a professorship in that institution, and during the winters of 1855 and '56, '56 and '57, he lectured there on General, Special and Surgical Anatomy. The next year, on account of sickness in his family, he resigned this professorship.

Always intensely patriotic, in the hour of the Nation's peril Dr. STEPHENSON was one of the first to offer his services. He enlisted at Jacksonville, Ill., and was appointed surgeon of the Fourteenth Illinois Infantry, volunteers, Colonel (afterward Major-General) JOHN

M. PALMER commanding the regiment. The regiment started for the scene of war on the 16th of June, 1861. Dr. STEPHENSON was soon promoted to the post of senior brigade surgeon. His term of enlistment expired May 25, 1864, and he then returned home and was mustered out.

Dr. STEPHENSON then located in Springfield, Ill., where he immediately entered into a very large practice.

In the course of his extensive practice, at about this time, many cases of destitute widows and orphans of soldiers whose lives had been freely offered on the sacred altars of their beloved country, many cases, also, of disabled veterans struggling against odds to earn a livelihood, came under Dr. STEPHENSON'S notice. He brooded over these things with a passionate and constantly intensifying sense that great and inexcusable injustice was being done the soldier. The more he brooded the more firmly he became convinced that a specific for these evils must be devised.

At length, in January, 1866, he conceived the idea of a National Soldiers' Mutual Benefit Society, whose motto should be loyalty, fraternity, charity, and whose glorious name should be the Grand Army of the Republic. It should be a secret society, with grips and passwords, non-partisan and loyal. He consulted with his friends about his new idea. Some encouraged it, but the majority thought it visionary and impracticable. The Doctor was a good fellow, they thought, but infatuated with his enthusiasms.

Soon after his conception of the G. A. R. idea he wrote down the ritual, rules, and regulations for the organization of the order. He submitted these, and his plan of organization, to Governor OGLESBY, who approved the work, but thought the plan of organization would not succeed. Dr. STEPHENSON, however, determined to realize his idea, procured the assistance of certain of his friends, Captain HOWE, of Ohio, Colonel FLOOD, of Wisconsin, Captain J. N. HILL and Colonel DANIEL GRASS, of Illinois, and sent them out to organize posts.

Having been urgently requested by his friends, Dr. J. W. ROUTH and Captain M. F. KANAN, of Decatur, Ill., to visit that city with a view to organizing, B. F. STEPHENSON, on the sixth day of April, 1866, the anniversary of the battle of Shiloh, in which battle he and nearly all the charter members of the post had taken an active part, established the first encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic, Post No. 1, of Decatur, District of Macon, Department of Illinois. The next post organized was at Springfield, Ill.

When Dr. STEPHENSON had succeeded in organizing forty posts in Illinois, he called a convention of all soldiers in good standing to meet him at Springfield on the 12th of July, 1866. At this convention was organized the Department of Illinois, with Major-General JOHN M. PALMER as department commander. The convention honored B. F. STEPHENSON by appointing him provisional commander-in-chief, G. A. R.

With indefatigable zeal, with confident faith in the ultimate success and utility of his scheme for assuring recognition of and reward for the soldier, with prophetic predictions of the power and the beneficent achievement which the future held for the superstructure of his foundation, the patriotic and philanthropic order of the G. A. R., Dr. STEPHENSON labored on. At his own expense, he sent organizers into different parts of Illinois and other states. Soon after the permanent organization of Illinois, Indiana was provisionally organized. Next came Ohio, then Wisconsin. Thus the work was vigorously pushed forward until, by the time the Indianapolis convention was called, the new order was fairly on the road to success.

The first national convention, called by Dr. STEPHENSON as provisional commander-in-chief, for the purpose of perfecting the organization of the order, met at Indianapolis, Ind., November 20, 1866. At this convention the ritual, rules and regulations originated by B. F. STEPHENSON, after some alterations, were adopted. Gen. S. A. HURLBURT, of Illinois, was elected commander-in-chief, and B. F. STEPHENSON, adjutant-general, that office being then elective.

Surgeon H. W. DAVIS offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

WHEREAS, We, the members of the Grand Army of the Republic, recognize in Major B. F. STEPHENSON, of Springfield, Ill., the head and front of the organization, be it therefore

Resolved, That for the energy, loyalty, and perseverance manifested in organizing the Grand Army of the Republic, he is entitled to the gratitude of all loyal men, and that we, as soldiers, tender him our thanks, and pledge him our friendships at all times and under all circumstances

The Major B. F. STEPHENSON referred to in the resolution was identical with Dr. B. F. STEPHENSON, major being an honorary title conferred on him for distinguished services in the battle of Shiloh.

During his term as adjutant general Dr. STEPHENSON continued to push the interests of the order energetically. General HURLBURT, "recognizing him as the head and front of the organization," interfered very little with his management, and, practically, Dr. STEPHENSON was still the lever behind the scenes. By the close of his term of office he had nourished the order to the point of standing alone, and it was assuming gigantic proportions.

At about the time of his retirement from office in the G. A. R. his health, already impaired, began to decline rapidly. He was obliged to give up his practice, and removed with his family to Rock Creek, a rural district situated about seven miles south of Petersburgh, Menard County, Illinois. Here, on the 30th of August, 1871, he died. On the 29th of August, 1882, Estill Post, No. 71, G. A. R., reinterred the remains of the founder of their order in Rose Hill Cemetery, Petersburgh, Ill., with appropriate ceremonies. There his ashes now rest.

Through the mournful breath of the cypress bough,
Comes an undertone of cheer;
The spirits of Love, and of Justice, avow:
"Lo, one of our own lies here!
Laid low in the mold,
Let him sleep!
The Lord of the Sickle, old,
With him his ancient tryst did keep;
The fruition of his heart-throes his brethren shall reap."

MARY H. STEPHENSON.

City of Athens.

ATHENS

ATHENS is one of the oldest towns in the county. It was surveyed and platted by JAMES STEVENSON in 1831, he being at that time county surveyor, for Rev. JOHN OVERSTREET. The town is a flourishing one, the country around being finely adapted to agricultural pursuits. ORIMEAL CLARK built the first cabin. The first merchant was OVERSTREET, who purchased the remnant of a stock of goods of HARRY RIGGIN, at his farm residence, in 1832. At an early date a pottery was established by CHARLES PIERSON. Dr. ABBOT was the first physician. The first one to distribute the mail for "UNCLE SAM" was MATTHEW ROGERS. The first school taught was by J. A. MENDAL, in a log cabin. Today Athens is justly proud of its public school, a commodious building, with all the modern improvements. Athens has two of the finest coal shafts in the county, and like the rest of the county, the coal is almost inexhaustible.

Athens is situated on the Jacksonville & Southeastern railroad, about eight miles from Petersburgh. It supports one bank, several stores and churches. The moral status of Athens is not surpassed by any of her sister towns. Such is the Athens of Menard today, venerable for her age and for the important part she has played in affording conveniences to the early settlers of that portion of the county.

North Sangamon Church

One of the Oldest in Menard County

View of Indian Point Cemetery

Showing the Grave of Captain Hathaway, First Person Buried in Menard County

INDIAN POINT

INDIAN POINT is one of the oldest settlements in the county. A little east of where the North Sangamon church and school now stand was once an Indian village of the Kickapoos. Many Indians were living here when the first settlers filed their claims for the lands of this section. It is a picturesque bit of scenery, and those who are living there have never marred or defaced its hillside slopes by cutting away the majestic trees that have swayed in the winds for centuries. Every spot seems dear to all living in the vicinity, and to a stranger coming into their midst, they appear as a family circle.

Among the first to settle here were ROBERT WHITE, WM. SHORT, HARRY RIGGIN, JAMES WILLIAMS, and the KINCAIDS. The citizens around Indian Point, recognizing the need of a higher education for their children than could be obtained at common schools, conceived the idea of having a school of a higher grade in their midst. To this end individual subscriptions were secured to the amount of $3000, and in 1858 the North Sangamon was erected. The building is of brick, two stories high, and in a grove of native trees During the first year of its existence it received pupils from Jacksonville and other towns, and is today kept up to the standard. They have a beautiful enclosure of seven acres for a cemetery, which occupies a commanding position overlooking Indian Creek and the surrounding country. The first person buried in it was a Captain HATHAWAY. While he and friends were on their way from Springfield to some point north of the county, they passed through Indian Point and stopped at the place where the cemetery now stands. While they were at dinner and admiring the lovely country around them, Captain HATHAWAY remarked, "When I die, boys, I want to be buried here," little thinking that only a few short hours would elapse ere he would be laid to rest on the very spot where he made this remark. On attempting to ford Salt Creek he was drowned, and his friends brought his body back. The kind and benevolent hands at Indian Point have marked his grave with a large boulder with his name engraved thereon.

Near the Academy is the North Sangamon church, a well-built edifice. This congregation was organized May 20, 1832, and has kept its doors open ever since.

Village of Tallula

TALLULA

THE name of Tallula, signifying Trickling Water, is appropriately given because of a spring near its site. This little village is situated in the western part of the county on the Chicago and Alton railroad, about eight miles from Petersburgh, in the midst of a fine rolling prairie. It was laid out in 1857 by W. G. GREENE, J. G. GREENE, RICHARD YATES, T. BAKER, W. G. SPEARS. The first house was erected by W. G. SPEARS. A store was first opened in 1858 by SPEARS and THRAPP. Dr. FRANCIS REGNIER was the first practicing physician in the precinct, and Dr. WILSON the first in the village of Tallula. Dr. WILSON established a bank in 1877. Tallula has one coal shaft about two hundred feet deep, at which depth an excellent vein of coal is reached. The Cumberland Presbyterians erected the first church. Tallula was incorporated as a village in 1871. The first school was taught by Miss SARAH BROCKMAN in 1859. Today they have as fine a school as any village in the county, erected on three acres of land donated by W. G. GREENE in 1868.

The Baptist church, a handsome brick edifice, was erected in 1871. This is the original Clary's Grove church, organized in a schoolhouse in 1824. Greenwood cemetery is carefully laid out and well kept. It is a beautiful place for the silent sleepers.

Near the village stands the ruin of the first log cabin built in the county of Menard by JAMES WHITE, in the fall of 1819.

There have been, with two exceptions, no saloons in Tallula, which speaks well for its morals. Tallula of today is a bright, busy and progressive village, a home of wealth and refinement.

Village of Greenview

GREENVIEW

ITUATED on the Chicago & Alton railroad, in the midst of a very fertile and productive region, is the city of Greenview, eight miles northeast of Petersburgh. In 1869, according to the survey of Wm. Engle, it was laid out on the land of Charles L. Montgomery, and named in honor of W. G. Greene, of Tallula. The first dwelling erected was by Robert McReynolds, who also opened a store about the same time. Emanuel Myer opened another about the same date. The physicians who first hung out shingles were Drs. Davis and Callaway. Jacob Propst was the first to personate "Vulcan" in this village. John Wilkinson built the first hotel.

The Methodist Episcopal church was organized in Greenview in the fall of 1858. This church was originally formed at Newmarket, but, upon the laying out of the village of Greenview, was removed, or rather reorganized within the corporation. There was no school taught in the village until the completion of the fine brick building erected in 1870. At the present date they have added rooms for higher studies. A strange feature in the history of Greenview is that it has no cemetery, its dead being carried to Petersburgh or adjoining cemeteries.

Greenview of today has many advantages. Its coal shaft, stores, bank, elevators, and the beautiful park in the center of its limits, its water-works and electric lights, are the pride of all who live within its borders.

Village of Oakford

OAKFORD

OAKFORD is situated on the Jacksonville & Northeastern railroad. It was platted and surveyed by James Kelly, county surveyor, for the proprietors, William Oakford and William Colson, in 1872. The first building on the town site was known as the "Railroad Store." Soon after the village was laid out, William Oakford built a store and opened a stock of groceries. In the summer of 1872, a general store was opened by Colvan Atterberry. H. A. Bennett, of Petersburgh, opened a stock of drugs. Dr. J. D. Whitley was the first practicing physician. Oakford has one church, Methodist, and one school house.

Constructed by Miss Bale

FROM SHELLS GATHERED AT NEW SALEM